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CHAPTER 3

VETERINARY CARE, FEEDING, DISPOSITION, AND TRANSPORTATION

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VETERINARY CARE, FEEDING, DISPOSITION, AND TRANSPORTATION

3-1. Veterinary Services. The U.S. Army has the sole responsibility for Military Working Dog (MWD) veterinary services. The servicing Army Medical Command pays for all medical care per reference (a).

3-2. Veterinary Responsibilities/Support. U.S. Army veterinarians provide complete medical and surgical care; quarterly kennel facility sanitary inspections; review plans for new construction and modification of kennels, support buildings, and sites; formulate MWD feeding program, and instruct handlers on the health, care, and management of MWDs. The area U.S. Army veterinarian will designate in writing a local civilian veterinarian for emergency use including name, address, telephone number, and detailed map. This information should be posted in the kennel facility and security dispatch for quick and easy reference.

3-3. MWD Physical

a. MWDs will receive semi-annual physical.

b. MWDs will receive a physical examination before and after shipment.

(1) A predeparture examination is given just before shipment from one command to another. A health certificate is issued for the state or country into which the dog is being shipped.

(2) A post arrival examination is given as soon as possible.

3-4. MWD Deployment Standards. There is an increasing demand for MWDs to deploy in support of various military/other federal agency security missions worldwide. Predetermining a dog's deployability will assist planners in assuring that only medically/physically capable MWDs will be assigned to fill

demanding missions where medical support is less than optimum. The veterinarian determines, during semi-annual physical, how suitable the dog is for deployment. The kennel master/supervisor determines suitability for deployment based on training/proficiency status, stamina, and condition when stressed. The veterinarian, after considering the kennel master/supervisor's evaluation, will classify the MWD into one of the mobility categories and forward deployment status to the MWD unit. Deployability status will be updated every 6 months, or as needed. Listed below are the deployment categories:

a. CAT 1 - Unrestricted Deployment:

- (1) Medically fit for any contingency or exercise.
- (2) Can handle extreme stressful environment (very hot weather, prolonged physical activity, etc.).
- (3) No limiting or compromising factors (lack of stamina, etc.).
- (4) No existing or recurring medical problems that limit performance or will worsen by stress or increased demands. Note: Medical problems may exist or be under treatment but do not limit performance.

b. CAT 2 - Limited Deployment:

- (1) Medically fit for regions/missions with minimal requirement for acclimation to heat or physical stress.
- (2) Medically fit for short duration deployments.
- (3) No significantly limiting or compromising factors.
- (4) Medical problems exist which slightly limit performance but are controlled.

c. CAT 3 - Temporarily Nondeployable:

912 25 1007

(1) Medical condition exists that impedes daily duty performance and is under diagnosis, observation, or treatment.

(2) Estimated Release Date (ERD) from CAT 3 must be given.

d. CAT 4 - Nondeployable:

(1) Unresolved medical or physical problems exist that frequently or regularly impede daily duty performance and ERD cannot be given.

(2) Medical or physical conditions warrant euthanasia/replacement within 1 year.

3-5. First Aid for MWDs. In emergency situations, an understanding of first aid measures is imperative to act in the best interest of the MWD until veterinary assistance is obtained. First aid kits shall be available in the kennel facility and all MWD vehicles. A U.S. Army veterinarian should be consulted to assist in determining the type of first aid equipment to be maintained in the kits. First aid kits must be replenished as soon as possible after use. First aid procedures for MWDs are outlined in appendix F.

3-6. Heartworm Preventive. It is the handler's responsibility to ensure the MWD receives heartworm preventive or any other medication prescribed by the veterinarian.

3-7. Food, Weight, and Stool Charts. Food, weight, and stool charts will be maintained on each dog. The amount of food and condition of the stool will be recorded daily. The dogs weight will be recorded weekly. An example of the chart (reproduce locally) is shown as figure 3-1 (OPNAV 5585/8).

3-8. MWD Working Weight. Each dog is assigned an ideal working weight by the local Army veterinarian based on the dog's size, age, reward, and most importantly, his performance. If the dog's performance declines, notify the veterinarian for possible adjustment to the ideal working weight. It is the handlers'

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responsibility to keep their dogs within the ideal working weight by conducting weekly weight checks and adjusting the dogs' ration, if necessary.

3-9. Feeding Requirements. The standard diet for all MWDs is determined by the U.S. Army Veterinary Service. MWD personnel will be notified by the local U.S. Army veterinarian and MWD program manager of any changes. The prescribed dog food approved for distribution throughout the entire MWD community is formulated for adult dogs which are subject to periods of intense physical activity and stress. It can also be fed to low and moderate activity dogs by use of a portion-controlled feeding method. Feed each dog the portion prescribed by the local U.S. Army veterinarian.

3-10. Disposition/Reporting of Incapacitated MWDs. Incapacitated MWDs can be euthanized on the authority of the accountable installation commanding officer under the circumstances listed below. When a MWD is experiencing undue suffering, or in an emergency situation, a veterinarian is authorized to euthanize the MWD in the most humane manner possible; subsequently reporting the reasons for the action to the installation commander as follows:

- a. To terminate undue suffering caused by disease, injury, or permanent physical disability.
- b. To prevent the spread of contagious disease.
- c. When MWD is unable to perform as the result of incurable disease or physical disability.
- d. When psychoneurotic or psychotic disorders are diagnosed that prevent the use of humane training therapy to return the MWD to normal use.
- e. When other conditions exist which may warrant euthanization, such as viciousness or temperamental instability, a request will be submitted to the MWD program manager via the

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chain of command. Request for disposition must include the following information:

(1) Statement regarding MWDs temperament and certification status.

(2) Name/tattoo number.

(3) Age/length of service.

f. In all cases death certificates must contain a brief statement explaining the reasons for euthanization.

3-11. Redistribution/Reporting of Excess Trained MWDs

a. Trained dogs that have become excess to the requirements of an activity will be reported to the appropriate Echelon 2 commander, via the chain of command, so that a determination can be made whether the MWDs can be used in authorized positions elsewhere within the region/area. If MWDs are in excess of major claimants requirements, the MWD program manager will advise of disposition instructions. If it becomes necessary to return a MWD to Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) due to health or other problems, the MWD program manager (CNO N09N3/NAVCRIMINVSERV-24F) will coordinate the effort and advise activities of disposition instructions.

b. When a MWD is in excess, a report will be generated to the MWD program manager via the appropriate chain of command. The following information is required:

(1) An original DD 1829 (Record of MWD Physical Examination) indicating a physical examination was completed within 30 days.

(2) Reason MWD declared excess (such as unit deactivation, unable to certify, reduced authorization, etc.). Include a statement with regard to existing requirements at the command.

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(3) Name, tattoo number.

(4) Age and length of service.

(5) Statement regarding MWD's temperament and certification status.

(6) Number of shipping crates required.

c. When MWDs are approved for return to Lackland AFB, shipments will be made by military/commercial air, using returning command's funds. If crates are required, they will usually be shipped by surface transportation using the returning command's fund cite.

3-12. Disposition of Trained/Untrained MWDs

a. MWDs will not be disposed of through sale, giveaway, or transfer to civilian law enforcement agencies or individuals.

b. No MWD will be disposed of by transferring to any agency (e.g., medical research and development, or clinical investigation) for the purpose of invasive research/training that would potentially compromise the health of such animal.

c. Dogs that become excess to user requirements or are unsuitable for military use will only be disposed of after approval from Lackland AFB by:

(1) Transfer to other government agencies.

(2) Euthanasia by competent authority when not disposed of under (1) above.

3-13. Transportation of MWDs

a. MWDs are shipped in conformance with Transportation and Travel, Military Traffic Management Regulation C8, AR 55-355; NAVSUPINST 4600.70; AFR 75-2; MCO P4600.14B, CH-8; and DSAR

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4500.3 CH-8 (NOTAL). MACR 76-1, Vol. 1, Part Two (NOTAL) also applies.

b. MWDs shipped to overseas locations are moved by military/commercial aircraft. A handler must accompany the shipment. MWD shipments within the continental United States (CONUS) are generally made by commercial air transportation under a Government Bill of Lading, and do not require handler escort. The using/receiving activity must provide a fund cite to cover the cost of transportation and temporary assigned duty expenses on escort handlers as required.

c. All live animals are restricted from shipment via commercial airlines as freight when the temperature is 45 degrees fahrenheit or less in the winter and 85 degrees fahrenheit or higher in the summer. Most airlines will allow shipment of MWDs as excess baggage when escorted by a handler during temperature restrictions.

d. MWD shipments must be closely monitored by all agencies involved in order to ensure compliance with rules and regulations of carriers' governing classifications and tariffs. Appropriate humane standards must be maintained at all times.

e. MWD shipping crates will be marked in bold letters "Caution-Military Working Dog." Metal shipping crates should contain a duckboard to allow the dog to rest/lie down without lying in urine. Plastic shipping crates should contain some type of absorbent materials, such as newspapers, to allow the dog to stay as dry as possible. A health certificate issued by a veterinarian must accompany the MWD when shipped to another state or country. Documentation for MWDs shipped via commercial air must contain a point of contact and telephone number to provide for timely pickup upon arrival.

f. All shipping crates, duckboards, food, and water pans must be returned to Lackland AFB within 10 working days after receipt of the dogs. Empty crates may be shipped by surface transportation or military air.

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MILITARY WORKING DOG

FOOD, WEIGHT, AND STOOL CHART

MWD: _____ TATTOO: _____ IDEAL WORKING WEIGHT: _____ MONTH/YEAR _____

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DIET</u>	<u>TIME FED</u>	<u>STOOL</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
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****SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS****

1. Weigh dogs at least weekly
2. Administer HEARTGUARD monthly

****MEDICATIONS****

<u>TYPE OF MEDICATION</u>	<u>DOSAGE</u>	<u>START DATE</u>	<u>STOP DATE</u>

OPNAV 5585/8 (1/97)

Enclosure (1)

Figure 3-1
3-8